

Batavia Historical Society

P. O. Box 15
Batavia, Illinois 60510

VOL. 21, No. 1

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

COMING MEETING SCHEDULE

TIME: Sunday, March 9, 1980 at 2 p.m. (Note time change)

PLACE: H.C. Storm Elementary School, Illinois & Van Nortwick Ave.

PROGRAM: "A TRIBUTE TO 145 YEARS OF BATAVIA EDUCATION"

The Batavia Schools of Today Dr. James Clark

Vignettes of Batavia Educators

Miss Grace McWayneMrs. Jane Elwood

Miss Louise WhiteMr. Harold Maves

Mr. J. B. NelsonMr. Tom Mair

Miss Alice GustafsonMr. William Wood

Dr. H. C. StormMiss Lydia Stafney

(Leigh & Penny Tracy, Program Co-Chairpersons)

A short business meeting will precede the program with Jeffery Schielke, President, presiding. A social hour will follow the program.

Batavia has a long history of educational responsibility to the children of our community. Trees destined to become pioneer homes were spared while others were suddenly turned into a schoolhouse in this tiny community that was not yet two years old. First records indicate that schooling was under the supervision of a school master Mr. Knowles/Mrs. Claghorn with a class size of nine pupils. There were a teacher and pupils, the only absolute requirements for schooling. Such was life in 1834/35.

By 1850 there were 185 families in the Batavia area, along with some single adults and children to make up a township population of 892. By now there were enough children for their parents to think about taking time to build fine limestone schools. The west siders erected a school for \$1200 in 1852 (later bought by the Swedish Lutherans for a church). The east siders built a finer building completed in 1860 for a cost of \$9000 (this was the structure that burned in 1893). Not to be outdone,

the west siders built an imposing edifice in 1867 at a cost of \$27,100. (Note the increasing costs of building construction a century ago or more.) The 1867 census states that there were 216 pupils on the west side with five teachers plus a principal while across the river there were 472 pupils in attendance with six teachers plus principal. O. T. Snow.

Local residents assumed the responsibility of secondary education with the establishment of a private seminary called Batavia Institute (now Fox Hill Home, alias Bellevue Place) at a cost of \$20,000, with the passage of the state law establishing high schools in 1867, the Institute was sold to Dr. Patterson, who established Bellevue. In 1971 Batavia High School celebrated its 100th birthday.

The town grew. Now in 1980 we have a school system operating from seven educational buildings, each local schoolhouse filled with "kids," as Dr. Storm used to call them. Batavia has always supported the construction of schools at local expense because the people of the community traditionally look with favor on their schools. But our local residents have always known that education is ultimately induced by the quality of the teachers who guide our youth. Five of the greatest of the many talented teachers that have blessed Batavia are rightfully honored by having elementary schools named for them. At our March 9th meeting, we shall learn more during short remembrances which shall recall Dr. Storm, Miss Louise White, Mr. Nelson, Miss Gustafson and Miss McWayne.

You are invited to learn more about some of the most-memorable-Batavians ever to walk our land and excite our minds. Each an individualist in their own right, the Batavia Historical Society is proud to offer such a program at this time. Remember, the meeting is Sunday, March 9th at 2 p.m. at the new H.C. Storm School at Illinois and Van Nortwick Avenues on the city's northwest side.

MEMORIES OF GOOD FRIENDS AND MEMBERS

Many of us did not know Harold Bunker too well. Yet, he was a loyal member of the Society. He was a big, kindly man of a rather prominent farm family . . . note Bunker Road off Main Street west of town. He was a collector of tractors, certainly not an item that could be displayed on a library shelf where he spent much of his time. He was a lover of research, study and presentations. He spent many hours in libraries around the area. Putting thought into action, his will presented the Society with a \$5,000 gift. No strings!

Beatrice Finley, wife of Ralph Finley, died recently. Our sympathy is with the Roger Finley family in Lily Lake. Ralph Finley was long a member of the Society, having given various items to the museum. His father was one time president of the Northwestern Railroad. The family home was originally the Italianate house on the present site of Avenue Chevrolet on Batavia Avenue. The house was moved a number of years ago to 231 North Jackson St.

Word has been received of the death of Harry Strain, long associated with the Society. Since he moved to California he has made frequent return trips to visit oldtimers such as Brayton Weaver and John Gustafson. He was a fine gentleman. His father was a purchaser in Chicago. Each day he would travel by train to Chicago to buy goods needed by retailers and small businesses in Batavia. The Strain was the attractive house where the Walter Kauth's reside.

As for memorials, Dorothy Hillburg has made a generous contribution to establish a memorial for Alice Gustafson, preferably something for the Lincoln Room at the Museum. Students and faculty at the Alice Gustafson School have achieved an innovative memorial. They have had a copy made of the beautiful 1869 map of Batavia. They had money left over and can you guess what they did with it? They had small 5x7 inch reproductions of the map made so that every child in the school was presented with a copy of it. Alice would have been delighted.

THINGS THAT NEED TO BE SAID

Three things the Depot Museum needs badly: An old chest in which to place our most precious costumes. (We shouldn't keep them on hangers, the experts say.) Copies of Batavia city directories that date before 1960 and any old Batavia telephone directories before 1964 would also be nice. We also need a Victorian bed table for the Lincoln Room.

Near the beginning of the century, Tracy Holbrook and Madge Grimes Spencer took a great number of snap shots that were all compiled into a unique album known as "Batavia Celebrities. The Society owns one of the original copies and thanks to some professional camera work by Police Chief Bob Popeck a couple years back, some new reproduction copies have now been made. Several of the original photos recently appeared on the front page of the Chronicle along with a story on the book. Bill Wood, our resident researcher, is compiling information concerning the men featured in the book on 3x5 inch cards. He is anxious to hear any biographical information you might be willing to share on the over 400 faces found on the negatives of Tracy's camera.

Speaking of Tracy's camera, news that the Holbrook/Spencer book was being researched brought out a genuine historic find when Jennie Larson, a familiar face in many circles of Batavia life, recalled some artifacts which Leslie Holbrook, Tracy's brother, gave her to keep some years back. Among the artifacts now in the Society's collection from the Holbrook family is the original negatives of Tracy's book.

Another good note to report is that the huge collection of filing cards that John A. Gustafson compiled are being reproduced on 5x7 cards for future use by historians, students and all interested persons. It will be good to have a duplicate source of this material as a safeguard and to further make them more available for use, as the first copies are about worn out.

At the most recent meeting of the Society Board a decision was reached to improve the audio portion of our meetings. Thus a new sound system with speaker's stand has been purchased and will be used for the first time on March 9th. With our new "amp" there should no longer be any problem with anyone hearing what is said during our meetings or programs.

Lucile Gustafson, Historian

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Some nice things are happening to Batavia and to the Batavia Historical Society lately. The generous remembrance left us from the estate of Harold Bunker has been invested by Treasurer Elliot Lundberg until a suitable determination can be made on what the money should be used for. Noting Mr. Bunker's love for research and libraries, the Board of Directors at their last meeting discussed setting up a memorial to Mr. Bunker which would promote his interest in local history and research with library and reference materials.

The Batavia Chamber of Commerce has just issued a 48 page full color book on life and times in the Windmill City of today. The book covers all phases of community life and contains some fabulous color photography of the Batavia area. I had the opportunity of representing the Society on the local committee which worked with the book's publisher in producing the final product. It was interesting to hear the publisher relate that no other town in the Chicago area he had worked in seemed to have as much local history as Batavia did. Thankfully, we were given the opportunity to promote a lot of local history in the book's final product. The front cover shows the Western Avenue windmill beneath an orange sunset. The professional shot was the product of Ron Dickenson and is a true prize winner. Copies of the book are on sale at the Chamber of Commerce office at the Bartholomew Civic Center, 327 West Wilson St. They are also being sold in local stores. Hopefully, we shall have the opportunity of having a few at the Depot Museum gift counter in the near future.

As Dr. Lucile already mentioned, the Board of Directors acted at their last meeting to improve the audio portion of all general meetings of the Society. We have purchased a combination speaker system and lecture stand that should provide many years of listening enjoyment for the Society. There should be no future problem with hearing any of the speakers or business portions of Historical Society meetings from now on. The new system is completely portable and folds up to suitcase size when not in use but it sure can send out the sound, believe me. It also has a built-in feature which allows for the tape recording of all meetings and programs straight off the microphone of the system.

Cooperation with the Batavia Park District at the Depot Museum continues to be very good. Museum Director Carla Hill has been responsive to our requests and is going to help us plan some sort of a 5th birthday party celebration for the Depot later this spring. Hard to believe that it has been five years since Pat Verderbar and a proud contingent of Batavians got the whole thing together and swung the door open to the public for the first time. That memorable date was April 13, 1975. The continuing flow of visitors who stop in to see what Batavia has created at the Depot Museum is a great tribute to all the volunteer hours or labor, money and time which went into the start of the Depot. But volunteer aid did not stop when the initial job was done, we are most fortunate to have many talented hands who continue to serve the Depot project with dedication. The newly published Chamber of Commerce book on Batavia makes mention of the never ending civic spirit in our city which produces projects like the Depot, Sheltered Workshop, etc.

Speaking of the Batavia Park District and the Depot, we are currently working with the park board administration to determine a long-lasting replacement for the memorial tree plaques which were destroyed last year by vandals around the memorial trees at the Depot. At the moment

some sort of map layout which could be kept in a safe place at the Depot site is being investigated. The map would be designed to show each tree on the site and would carry information about each person that a tree is dedicated to. Vandalism around the Depot has dropped somewhat but not entirely and the value of our alarm system there has been good protection and a real bargain.

At the last meeting of the Board of Directors all were in agreement that we should endorse the requests by the owners of both the old Louise White School and Grace McWayne Annex (alias Valley Exceptional School on First St.) for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. We have received word that the application for the Louise White building will be heard formally on March 14th in Springfield before the Illinois Advisory Council on Historic Sites. We have sent a letter of endorsement for this nomination and further offered some historical information regarding the building.

I had the opportunity to tour the old Louise White building during its present remodeling and reconstruction work now in progress. Richard Marker, a Downers Grove based architect, is one of the partners in the venture and has been in regular contact with the Society on the project. Many of the interior walls in the 1893 portion of the building (the limestone section) have had the plaster removed and underneath some beautiful red brick, circa 1893, has been found. In fact, all the interior walls have been found to be red brick except for coatrooms. Work has been started on the installation of an elevator into the building which will open up access to the attic where the owners hope to open a restaurant. Plans at present call for the old classrooms with red brick walls to be divided up into commercial shops. Special interest has been shown on the part of the owners for attracting antique shops into the complex. Much of the blacktop on Washington Avenue and State Street sides of the building is to be replaced by green grass and trees. Entrances and parking will be off Van Buren. The city has rezoned the property to allow for business use and the owners say that their project will be a unique attraction to the community. If past performance is any indication we may well have something good going for us. One past project of the Louise White owners is the restoration of an old brick blacksmiths shop in downtown Downers Grove. Located at 5300 So. Main Street in downtown Downers Grove, the building is one sure attraction in that community. If the same sort of job can be done on Louise White that has been done in Downers Grove, Batavia may have a big new attraction on its hands in one of its older historic buildings. Here's hoping we are about to enjoy great things at the old east side schoolhouse!

I continue to have the pleasure of talking with Miss Eunice Shumway, our first President and one of our founders. Her aid and counsel on many topics is much appreciated. She continues to express concern for the appearance of Batavia, especially our downtown area, where we certainly need more working together among all factions of the community to brighten our days ahead . . . I also have the privilege to talk with John and Arnold Gustafson frequently. Here too, I find a love and concern for Batavia that is second to none. Their sentiments about the people of Batavia are a community tribute of the first order and their concern that our city grow and expand in an orderly fashion, while never forgetting its proud past, are thoughts we all should take note of.

Jeff Schielke

TIME HAS COME TO PAY YOUR 1980 DUES

By Dr. Lucile

Mrs. Ethel Bartelt recently mailed us her 1980 dues for membership in the Batavia Historical Society. A life-long resident of our city, Mrs. Bartelt now resides at the Roosevelt Square Retirement Center on Fabyan Parkway. She has always been a very loyal member to the society and most generous in her gifts to the museum. One of the most interesting artifacts we own is a handmade bread pan used by her mother. (She also contributed her beautiful wedding dress.) Her mother, Mrs. Clark Lewis, was the first woman ever to serve on the East Side School Board, and her brother Bob was one of the students at the school the day back in 1893 when it burned down. Ethel's father was Clark Lewis, editor of the Batavia News which began here in 1869. The museum owns many issues of that newspaper. By the way, the Lewis home still stands on the southeast corner of Van Buren and Spring Streets. The prompt action by Mrs. Bartelt in paying her dues leads us into the following headline for your immediate attention

CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE AND STAY ON OUR ROLES.

* * * * *

TO: THE BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 15

BATAVIA ILLINOIS 60510

I wish to renew my yearning of curiosity in Batavia's past. My (Our) membership dues for 1980 are enclosed.

NAME _____

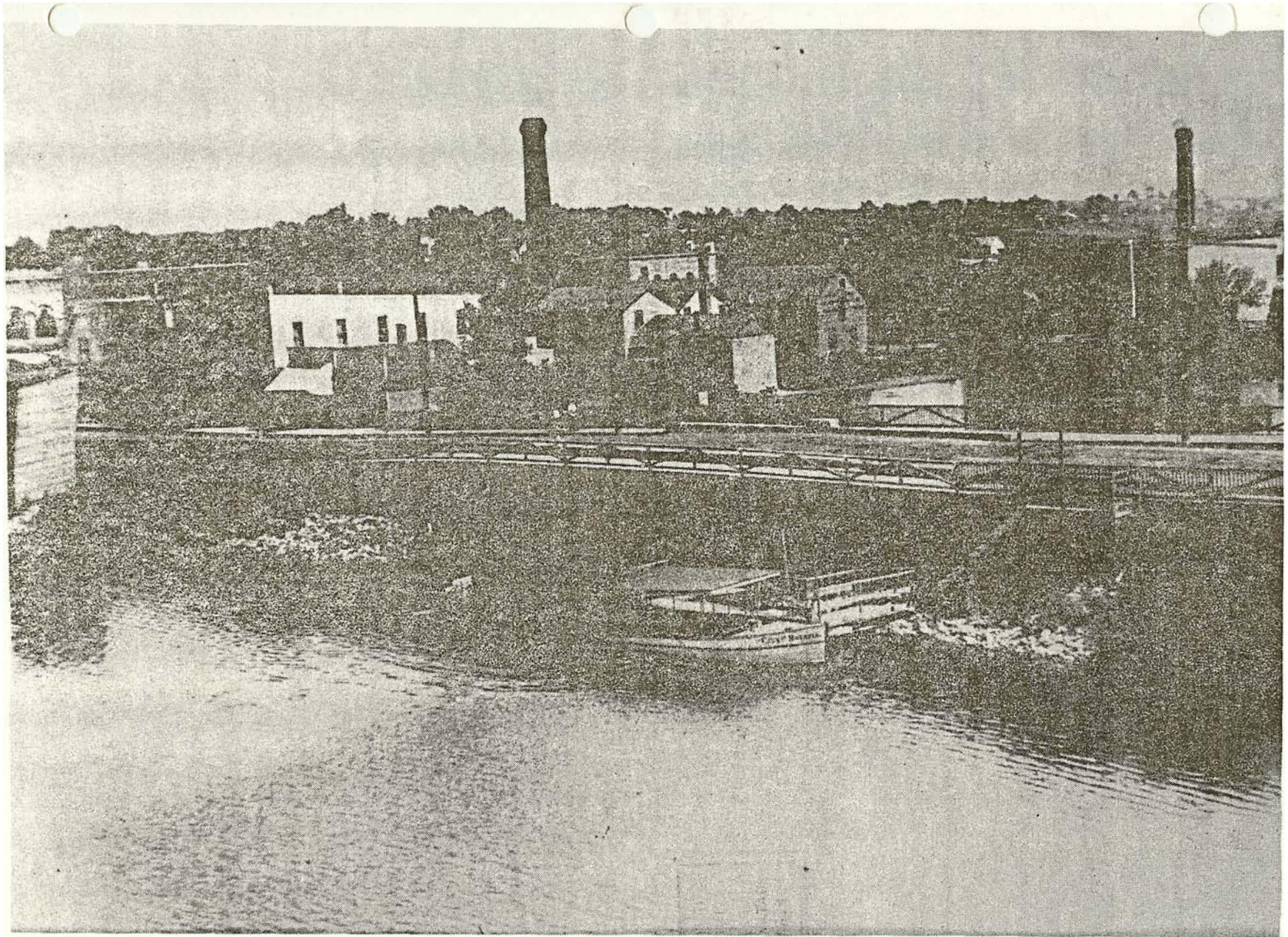
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CITY _____, STATE _____ ZIP _____

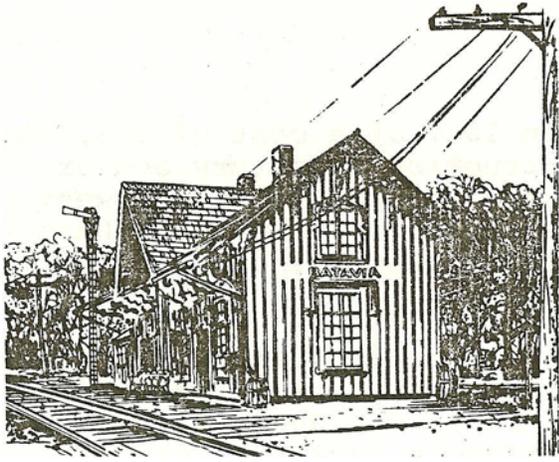
Membership due rates:	Single, \$3.00	Sustaining, \$10.00
	Tandem, \$5.00	Life, \$50.00

REMEMBER?

Crane and Swan "Let These Birds Feather Your Nest" . . . "The First Nighter" radio program sponsored by Campana . . . Johnny Ozier telling Civil War stories . . . Charlie Bird's Hat Shop . . . The "Victory Gardens" of Batavia . . . The Green Pheasants . . . Radio station WORD . . . The Frame . . . Murray's News Agency



Made from an original glass negative, this photograph of "the old pond" and the West Wilson St. bridge was taken in about 1894 by the father of Carl Harrold. Mr. Harrold gave the negative to Police Chief Robert Popeck who printed it up for the Society. Hard to believe that McDonald's stands today where the "City of Batavia" paddle wheel boat sits in tow.



Batavia Historical Society

**P. O. Box 15
Batavia, Illinois 60510**

VOL. 21, No. 2

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

July 1980

A special program about Batavia and its history will be previewed at the Depot Museum on Saturday, July 26th from 10 a.m. till 3 p.m. All members of the Society are invited to attend as this will be our summer program event.

This program is special because it was put together for use as an educational and information tool for the Depot. Done with colored slides, music and commentary, the program is the brainchild of Carla Hill, our Depot Director, and the Reverend David Berg of Bethany Lutheran Church of Batavia. The first segment of this program was previewed at the windmill dedication program last September and was highly praised by all who saw it.

The now completed show includes several different segments with different titles. These include: "Introduction to Batavia," "Mary Lincoln In Batavia," "Windmills and Wagons," "Historic Homes," and "Batavia Today." Reverend Berg's award winning photography captures many scenes in town like they have never been shown before and there is no doubt that this program will be much sought after once it is released out into the community.

Since the Historical Society has supported this effort from the outset more than a year ago, and since many of the scenes and items pictured are of historic importance, it seems only fitting that members of the Historical Society be invited to the first public showing.

At the request of Carla and Reverend Berg, the program has been dedicated to the Gustafson family in honor of their many years of combined service to the citizens of Batavia and the community's heritage in total.

Again, the program will be shown a number of times on Saturday, July 26th in the basement of our Depot Museum at Houston and Water Streets. Starting time for the first showing is 10 a.m. and the program will be rerun as long as there is an audience until 3 p.m. The Society will provide refreshments for all who attend. The program will of course take place during the Windmill City Festival (alias Boo Boo Days) which the Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring throughout the downtown area the weekend of July 24-26. Several other community events are expected to be taking place in the Depot

area at the same time so there should be lots to see and do in addition to previewing the new program. It is expected that about a half hour's time will be needed for a complete viewing of the new program so plan your schedule accordingly.

NEWS OF BATAVIA INTEREST

John Gustafson marked his 90th birthday on July 9th and to honor and commemorate this event the Society planted a tree at the Depot Museum. The tree will be set at the center of the pond area east of the museum near Houston Street. From this location, it should grow and someday tower over the top of the pond area for future generations to see and enjoy. The tree will thus hold a prominent position in our historical area, similar to the prominent position John has held in Batavia for many years as a civic servant, city booster, and town historian.

While talking of trees, plans are also in the works to plant another tree at the Depot in tribute to the late Harold Bunker, a long-time member of the Society. The Society recently received a \$5,000.00 gift from Mr. Bunker's estate.

At the last meeting of the Board of Directors, it was decided that the Society would begin a long term historical recording project to explore "the roots" of Batavians. Through a joint venture of Marilyn Robinson, a Batavia High School teacher with a background in genealogy and our own Dr. Lucile Gustafson, we are now developing a form or questionnaire that is to be printed up in mass and circulated throughout the community. What we will be asking is that everyone fill out one of our forms on themselves and any deceased relatives who lived in Batavia. Information gathered from the forms will then be transcribed onto file cards which will eventually go into a card file system at the Depot. Thus, in future years, we hope we shall have a comprehensive file system of "Batavia People." Information we shall try and obtain about you and your family include birthday, date of marriage, children, address where you live, occupation, .and other interesting tidbits of information.

We already have started this project and now have a card system with about four hundred names on cards. The basis for this starting point was the information which John Gustafson gathered on early Batavia residents using early city directories and Kane County Histories. With this base, we hope to expand our card system to include a card of information on everyone in town. Marilyn Robinson has been very busy transcribing this information for us and has offered to assist further.

The importance of this project is clearly seen when you consider that we constantly are receiving requests for information from people researching their "roots." Family genealogy is becoming a hobby with many people and thus it is important that we try and make our Society records as complete on Batavia as possible.

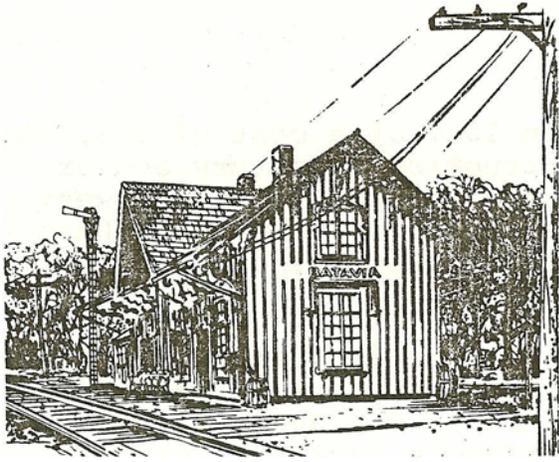
Hopefully a copy of our form and detailed information on the project will be featured in our next newsletter. Eventually we are planning to have a community wide distribution of our genealogy form in hopes that all residents will participate. This should be an exciting project for the Society to embark upon and from the sound of things, it looks like we may be one of the first historical groups in the Valley area to sponsor such a venture.

Another project which the Board of Directors has taken steps to revive is the offering of plaques for historic structures in the community. The board is currently working up a new set of guidelines by which plaques will be offered for structures which are over 100 years old and still reflect their historical identity. Because of the cost of plaques, the Society will only be able to offer them to persons who will be willing to pay the price of the plaque manufacturing. Complete details of how to go about making application for a plaque for a historic structure in Batavia through the Society should be available sometime in August. Details will be outlined in the local newspapers as well as the Society newsletter.

It was with sincere regret that we learned that The Batavia Chronicle has been forced to reduce its Batavia office staff in an economy move. No longer with the newspaper because of this. economic problem are Roberta Campbell and Joyce Grand. Roberta has been a special friend to the Society for many years during her employment at both The Herald and Chronicle and Joyce Grand in her short time in Batavia did stories of historical importance on such topics as the future of Bellevue Place, Glenwood Park, etc. She also did a nice story on John Gustafson's 90th birthday celebration during her final days with the newspaper. We certainly extend to both Roberta and Joyce the thanks of the Historical Society for all their efforts on our behalf.

The City of Batavia has been informed by the State Historical Society that a recommendation has been made by the State Preservation Council to have the old Louise White School building placed on the National Registry of Historical Places. The state's recommendation has been passed onto Washington for further consideration. The Society sent a letter to the State Council endorsing the idea of having Louise White placed on the National Registry. Reportedly, the general economic slowdown around the country has caused remodeling work to be halted at the old Louise White building for a temporary period of time. The owners still have hopes of reopening the old school as a retail shopping attraction to include a restaurant in the attic.

It is hard to believe that 5 years have passed since the Depot Museum was officially dedicated. To commemorate this event, we are planning a 5th birthday party and Society meeting for the early fall. Noting that the move and restoration of the Depot was one of the more historic events to take place in Batavia during the 1970's, it is thought that now would be a good time to get into the record the memories of those who played an active role in getting the Depot off the ground. This shall be the theme of our fall program and Carla is working on some special displays and attractions at the Depot to help make the 5th birthday of the 125 year old building at its new location a memorable event.



Batavia Historical Society

**P. O. Box 15
Batavia, Illinois 60510**

VOL. 21, No. 3

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

September 1980

Celebration of the 5th anniversary of the Depot Museum's Grand Opening in 1975 will be the topic of our next meeting of the Historical Society on Sunday, October 5, 1980 at 2 p.m. at the Depot Museum. All members, friends, and guests of the Society are invited to attend. A special program recalling the effort which brought about the moving of the Depot and its opening as a museum will be presented. This is an especially important topic because of all the history made in town during the 1970's, few events had more historical importance than the opening of the museum. It is important, believe it or not, that we get on record and tape now the memories of those who played an active role in the Depot project. Thus, we have asked several prominent Depot "movers" to recall their memories for us. Beyond the scheduled remarks, we hope that other members and friends of the Society will be willing to share with us their personal memories of this big event. A century from now a future generation will no doubt cherish a tape recording of the memories of one of Batavia's grandest moments.

Slated to kickoff the afternoon's events will be some memorable names in Depot history:

Phil Elfstrom will tell of the events and efforts which lead to some 20 businessmen buying the Depot to save it for Batavia.

Dave Sawitoski shall share his memories of the thoughts and concepts discussed by a "Blue Ribbon Citizens Committee" which eventually recommended the Depot move.

Walter Kauth shall provide some visual memories which will recall the clear October day in 1973 when the Depot moved across town.

Dr. Lucile Gustafson says that she will relate "the marriage" which occurred between the historical society and the park district to make the Depot effort jell. She says she even plans to read from "our marriage contract."

Carla Hill, current museum director, will tell a little about what the Depot has come to mean to Batavia in the way of relating history, greeting guests to the community, and being "a part of a grand civic spirit"

Following remarks from these speakers, we hope members of the audience who have a special remembrance of the Depot project will share them with us. Former museum directors Pat Verderbar and Anne Alexander have been invited to share the day with us and Pat has already said she will be on hand.

Refreshments for the afternoon celebration will be coordinated by Vice President Penny Tracy and her committee.

Remember, next meeting of the Society will be Sunday, October 5th at 2 p.m. at the Depot Museum, Houston and Water Streets. Carla is also promising a special display at the museum for this event.

MANY THANKS TO OUR FAITHFUL VOLUNTEERS

Celebration of the Depot's 5th anniversary brings to mind the thought of appreciation for all the long and dedicated hours of volunteer time which our members and friends put into keeping the doors of the museum open and friendly. Jean Conde coordinates the scheduling of volunteers on a monthly basis and her grand efforts along with all those who serve make the Depot a living example of history for all to see and appreciate. The Society shall always be in debt to the many friendly faces who represent us each week to the hundreds of visitors which pass through each year.

Many thanks to "our volunteers" for giving of their time and energy in support of the Batavia Historical Society.

DEPOT WORKSHOP NOW BEING PLANNED

Director Carla reports that she is planning a "workshop" for all Depot volunteers to be held sometime in late October or early November, probably on a Saturday so that weekend volunteer will also be able to attend. One of the points to be covered will be a short, but informative, explanation of the Depot's burglar and fire alarm systems. Also sought will be questions, criticisms, and comments on how the Depot can be made a better place. The plan of providing a lunch for those attending the "workshop" is also in the works. Volunteers will be contacted as to exact date and time.

OUR BIG NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT

Perhaps the big announcement to come from the Board of Directors latest meeting is that John Gustafson's book HISTORIC BATAVIA is being reprinted in total along with a 1962-1980 update in community history authored by Society president, Jeff Schielke with the help of many members and friends of the Society. A copy of John's history has not been available for sale since 1965 and there has been quite a call for them in recent years. Soldout for almost 15 years, we have a feeling that quite a few copies of John's book are desired. We have high hopes that the book will be back from the printer by early December and thus made available for Christmas presents this year.

MORE ABOUT HISTORIC BATAVIA

John and Jeff have been putting their heads together in recent weeks to discuss what should be added to HISTORIC BATAVIA and they have fond hopes that the 2nd edition will be warmly received by the community. Finances for the book became available this year when the Society received a \$5,000 gift from the estate of Harold Bunker, one of our most faithful members for many years. Mr. Bunker, a lover of books and libraries, will have his memorial gift acknowledged at the front of the new HISTORIC BATAVIA. It seemed like a fitting tribute by the board to use Mr. Bunker's gift in this respect given his love of books and history. Of even greater importance is that through the sale of the books, the Society hopefully will recapture Mr. Bunker's gift and be able to use it a second time for another project of benefit. The newest edition of HISTORIC BATAVIA will be professionally type set and will be available in both soft and hard cover. Hard cover copies will be several dollars more than soft covers because of the added binding cost with the book just about to be placed in the hands of the printer it looks as though the new edition of HISTORIC BATAVIA will run about 250 pages. More about the date the books will go on sale, etc. will be covered in our next newsletter. We are also happy to relate that a local business has already placed an order for the first \$1,000 worth of the new edition of HISTORIC BATAVIA.

NEWS NOTES

As most members of the Society are probably aware, we planted a small tree at the base of the Houston Street pond along side the Depot in August to commemorate the 90th birthday of John Gustafson. We wish to thank the park district maintenance staff and its head, Chuck Kuhn for their cooperation in this project. We were sorry to hear that ill health has caused Elaine Cannon to be moved to the Michaelson House at Holmstad. We would encourage everyone to remember Elaine with a card or note. Our project of gathering data on local persons is coming along fine. In a week or so we shall have ready a form which we will ask members to fill out on themselves and their relatives who have lived in Batavia. The forms will all be compiled into a card index to be housed at the Depot. The index, of which we already have about three hundred names on file through the research of John Gustafson, will be available for future use of persons tracing "their roots." We want to thank Marilyn Robinson of the high school staff and our own Dr. Lucile Gustafson for their efforts in putting together a form on genealogy which we shall be using in this project. The summer months brought with it a visit from David Young, an administrator with the U.S. Armed Forces in Germany who was back in the U.S. on a visit. Mr. Young was making a special stop in Batavia to look into his own family roots. He said he found a wealth of information here thanks in large part to the efforts of Eunice Shumway and Dr. Lucile.

DON'T FORGET

Our next meeting will be Sunday, October 5, 1980 at the Depot Museum at 2 p.m. Please plan to attend and bring along a friend.